



# Battery Park City Authority

## Report to Manhattan Community Board 1 – Battery Park City Committee

June 7, 2023

Presented by Nick Sbordone, BPCA  
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**WHAT'S IN BLOOM:** Peony 'Bartzella,' commonly known as Itoh Peony, is a perennial featuring pastel yellow, semi-double to double flower atop a dark green glossy foliage. Blooming in late spring, flowers are 6-8" in diameter and have a sweet fragrance, giving way to ornamental seed heads. It can be currently found in bloom in the gardens of the Eastern Border, the BPC Esplanade, and Rockefeller Park.

### NEIGHBORHOOD & PROJECT UPDATES:

#### **I. Canadian Wildfires Impacting Air Quality**

- More than 100 wildfires currently burning in Quebec are causing hazy conditions across much of New York State.
- An Air Quality Health Advisory is in effect through June 7, 2023 for Long Island, New York City Metro, Lower Hudson Valley, Upper Hudson Valley, Adirondacks, Eastern Lake Ontario, and Central New York regions.
- WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- ✓ When outdoor particulate matter levels are elevated, going indoors may reduce exposure. (If there are significant indoor sources of PM 2.5 – tobacco, candle or incense smoke, or fumes from cooking – levels inside may not be lower than outside.)
  - ✓ Some ways to reduce exposure are to minimize outdoor and indoor sources and avoid strenuous activities in areas where fine particle concentrations are high.
  - ✓ Additional [information on ozone and PM 2.5](#) is available on DEC's website and on [DOH's website](#).
  - Worsening wildfires are yet another unfortunate symptom of climate change – a clear reminder of why the Authority's resiliency and sustainability work is so important.
  - Read more: [Governor Hochul Announces One Million N95 Masks to be Made Available to New Yorkers as Effects of Canadian Wildfires Continue to Impact Air Quality in New York State](#) (June 7, 2023)
- II. [COVID-19 Vaccine](#) – Get vaccinated and stay up to date with all recommended doses.
- All New Yorkers 6 months and older should [get vaccinated](#) and get their [booster dose](#) when eligible. If you are [experiencing symptoms](#) or were exposed, [get tested](#), and talk to your healthcare provider about [treatment](#) if you test positive.
  - Read the [updated recommendations](#) for the use of masks and face coverings that all healthcare settings in New York should follow during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Read more: [Governor Hochul Updates New Yorkers on State's Progress Combating COVID-19](#) (May 12, 2023)
- III. **COMING UP: Next North/West Battery Park City Resiliency Project Public Meeting – June 26, 2023** ([REGISTER HERE](#))



- The North/West Battery Park City Resiliency (NWBPCR) Project team has considered feedback from previous engagement meetings (most recently the popular “reach-specific” workshops of February 8, February 16, March 6, and March 15) and will be providing an update on the project’s 30% Design milestone.
- Join us on [Monday, June 26 at Stuyvesant High School](#) (345 Chambers Street), or via livestream, to hear from experts about the designs so far, see visualizations, and provide feedback that will help us refine our future design choices.
- Identical presentations have been scheduled at two different times to make it easier to participate. There will be a presentation at 4:30PM, and one at 6:30PM, each with a discussion to follow.

Also re: NWBPCR Project work—

- [COMMUNITY NOTICE: Traffic Count Cameras](#)
  - ✓ As part of the preparation of the NWBPCR Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), BPCA is conducting vehicular and pedestrian traffic counts as required by the New York City Department of Transportation over the course of June (read more above).
- [COMMUNITY NOTICE: Geotechnical Sampling Work](#)
  - ✓ Geotechnical sampling work to determine subsurface conditions at critical locations along the project area is underway through the coming months (read more above).
- [Gateway Plaza Tenants Association: Project Briefing](#) – May 24, 2023 | [Video](#)
  - ✓ Thank you, GPTA!
- Questions & feedback about NWBPCR can be sent to [nwbpcrinfo@bpca.ny.gov](mailto:nwbpcrinfo@bpca.ny.gov) or:  
 Battery Park City Authority  
 200 Liberty Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 New York, NY 10281  
*att: North/West BPC Resiliency Project Team*
- [Battery Park City Authority Gets Expanded Capacity to Fund Major Lower Manhattan Resiliency Projects](#) (*Gotham Gazette*)
- [More about NWBPCR here](#)

#### IV. South Battery Park City Resiliency Project

- Project construction underway; to be completed Spring 2025
- [Read the latest project construction update here](#) (May 26-June 9)
- Questions & feedback about SBPCR can be sent to:  
 Rick Fogarty, Community Construction Liaison  
[sbpcrinfo@bpca.ny.gov](mailto:sbpcrinfo@bpca.ny.gov) / (917) 624-5409; or by mail  
  
 Battery Park City Authority  
 200 Liberty Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 New York, NY 10281  
*att: SBPCR Project Team*
- [More about SBPCR here](#)



**V. Remembering Bob Schneck**

- Bob Schneck, beloved community partner and friend, passed on May 15, aged 75.
- *“Bob loved this community and cared deeply about its future, especially when it came to addressing our most pressing issues like sustainability, resiliency, livability. Whether it was at public meetings or crossing paths around the neighborhood, he was always eager to offer insights, advice, and recommendations – and did so frankly and with a smile. And he was generous in his creativity as well, through photography and written word that captured the spirit of the neighborhood he called home. Our thoughts are with his partner, Cora, and his family and many friends.”*

- BPCA President & CEO B.J. Jones

- [Read more about Bob here](#)

**VI. Farewell & Good Luck, Lucian Reynolds**

- BPCA thanks Community Board 1 District Manager Lucian Reynolds for his years of dedicated service to the Lower Manhattan Community. Thank you, Lucian, and good luck!

**VII. Coming Up in BPC**

- [BPCA’s Summer 2023 Program & Event Guide](#) details a broad range of free programming – including outdoor concerts, music, art, nature, walking tours, fitness, and more – across Battery Park City from May through August.
- Features illustrated program offerings organized by monthly event highlights and by those of interest to adults and seniors, school-aged children, and preschoolers, as well as info about classes at BPC’s [Community Center at Stuyvesant High School](#).
- [Interludes: Paul Taylor School – Thursday, June 8, 6:30PM @ Belvedere Plaza](#). One of the most famous and dynamic modern dance ensembles of our time, the Paul Taylor School, will lead a fun interactive dance class featuring choreography from their world-renowned repertoire. Discover why this dynamic dance company continues to transform and inspire lives around the world.



- [Community Dance: Mambo – Saturday, June 10 @ 6:30PM @ Esplanade Plaza.](#)  
In celebration of Caribbean-American Heritage Month, all are invited to experience the dynamic and creative energy of the Franck Muhel & His Mambo Dancers.
- 2023 River to River Festival:
  - ✓ [\*Mahicantuk, “River That Flows Two Ways” – Saturday & Sunday, June 10-11, 11AM-5PM @ Belvedere Plaza.\*](#) Colombian artist Marta Blair invites the public to participate in a large-scale tape installation. Inspired by one of names Lenape people call the Hudson River: *Mahicantuk*, “River that Flows Two Ways,” the waterway emphasizes the mobility of life and multiple ways to flow and interact.
  - ✓ [\*River to River West African Concert with Natu Camara – Saturday, June 17, 6:30-8PM @ Rockefeller Park.\*](#) The closing concert of 2023’s River to River Festival continues the Juneteenth Celebration with Guinean musician and activist Natu Camara and her vibrant band. Her uplifting message, inspired by her beloved home, is wrapped in a blend of afro-rock and soul.
- [Learn About OMNY! – Wednesday, June 14, 1PM @ 6 River Terrace.](#) Come learn all about OMNY, the new contactless fare payment system for public transportation in the New York region. An MTA representative will give a brief presentation, hold a Q&A session and sign up those eligible for reduced fares.





- [Silent Disco Pride Party – Thursday, June 15, 7-10PM @ Esplanade Plaza.](#) Celebrate Pride Month with a silent disco dance party featuring Gotham Cheer and queer DJ's from QuietEvents. Breathtaking sunset views and Lady Liberty will serve as our backdrop as we dance to the hottest beats pumped through light-up headphones.



- [Juneteenth Celebration – Saturday, June 17, 4-6PM @ Rockefeller Park.](#) Juneteenth, or Emancipation Day, originated in 1865 in Galveston, Texas. Battery Park City's 7<sup>th</sup> annual Juneteenth Celebration offers fun and history, art and music. The Federation of Black Cowboys share history, horsemanship and riding. Paint your own Juneteenth flag and make a bandana with bright West African print fabric.



- [Swedish Midsummer Festival – Friday, June 23, 5-8PM @ Rockefeller Park.](#) Enjoy this nostalgic celebration of the summer solstice with a lively dance around the Midsummer pole. Make wreaths from beautiful flowers representing those in bloom on the solstice in Sweden. Enjoy a parade, children's games, and Swedish delicacies. Traditional music by Paul Dahlin and fiddlers from the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis.



- [BPC Community Field Day – Wednesday, June 28, 11AM-2PM @ Rockefeller Park.](#) School's out for the summer! Celebrate at Community Field Day in Rockefeller Park. Fast break to the basketball court for a clinic led by coaches from the New York Liberty. Take part in classic field day games and our annual tug-of-war. Plus live DJ, lawn games, water play, and so much more at the biggest part of the year!



- And coming up in July, our annual [River & Blues](#) outdoor summer concert series returns in a new location. Join us every Thursday in July for world-class Blues-inspired music – Rockefeller Park at 6PM.
  - ✓ July 6: The Dip
  - ✓ July 13: Lee Fields
  - ✓ July 20: Tamikrest
  - ✓ July 27: Allison Russell



#### VIII. COMMUNITY REMINDER: Financial Assistance for Medicare Beneficiaries

- The New York State Office for the Aging [is urging income-eligible Medicare beneficiaries in New York to apply](#) for up to \$7,300 annually in financial assistance through an expansion in the Medicare Savings Program (MSP).
- Medicare beneficiaries in New York are encouraged to apply now that the newly-expanded MSP eligibility income limits are official, based on updates to the federal poverty levels. The 2023 income eligibility limits are **\$2,280 for an individual** and **\$3,077 for a couple**.
  - ✓ An application is [available on the New York State Department of Health website here](#).
  - ✓ Visit <https://aging.ny.gov/medicare-savings-program> for more information, or call 1-800-0501 for application assistance.
- BPCA's dedicated "BPC Seniors" webpage provides information on events, news & services of interest to our local senior community: <https://bpca.ny.gov/bpcseniors/>



#### IX. COMMUNITY REMINDER: Battery Park Underpass – Overnight Closures thru June 30

- The NYC Department of Transportation is conducting maintenance of the Battery Park Underpass's drainage system from **Tuesday, June 6** until **Friday, June 30**.
- As a result, one tube at a time will be closed on weekdays from 11PM-5AM
- For additional information CONTACT Huascar Robles at NYC DOT Community Affairs – (212) 83906302 or [hrobles@dot.nyc.gov](mailto:hrobles@dot.nyc.gov).



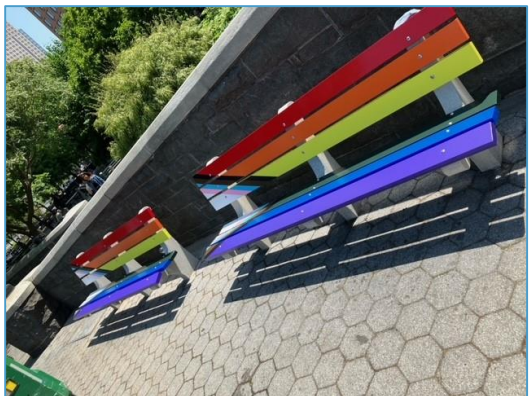
#### X. COMMUNITY REMINDER: Pet-Free Parks Lawns

- While leashed pets are permitted on hard surfaces throughout Battery Park City, they are not permitted on parks lawns.
- READ MORE: [It's a Dog's Life in BPC](#)



## XI. BPC Parks Happenings!

- BPCA's Parks Operations team focuses daily on a range of tasks to maintain BPC's world-class standards. Here are some examples of what's happening in June —
  - ✓ **Still Permeating:** BPCA staff continues its work installing permeable pavers along Rockefeller Park's North lawn. Later this month we will be moving to our fourth and final location along South Esplanade Plaza.
  - ✓ **Circle of Life:** Removal of dead or dying trees will take place along River Terrace, to be replaced with new trees during this fall's planting season.
  - ✓ **Looking for some shade:** The Authority is conducting a [tree canopy and biodiversity inventory](#) in order to optimize its planting decisions and horticultural management practices and further accentuate the positive impacts of neighborhood greenery.
  - ✓ **Love (the) Triangle:** BPCA staff is watering and weeding the new native "no-mow" lawn planting at Murray Triangle to ensure successful establishment. This new lawn will provide habit and shelter for wildlife that call BPC home, as well as incorporate sustainable gardening practices.
  - ✓ **Right down the middle:** Route 9A medians will be planted this month with native plant plugs to ensure optimal growth.
  - ✓ **The Pride of BPC:** A neighborhood fave! Look for the Pride benches and lights on the Esplanade and in Rockefeller Park installed by our Parks Maintenance Team.
  - ✓ **Calling All Volunteers!** The team is looking for volunteers who would like to join us in completing gardening tasks like weeding, watering, and deadheading of plants. Contact [info@bpca.ny.gov](mailto:info@bpca.ny.gov) for a volunteer application and more info.
  - ✓ **Zero Waste:** As a decades-long leader in sustainability, BPCA is striving to divert 90% of what is sent to landfill! To continue helping toward our Zero Waste goal, we ask that you rethink what you throw away in the parks, and please recycle or compost items.
  - ✓ **See it to believe it:** Although all of the parks within BPC are beautiful and worth visiting, here are some recommendations of "Must Sees" for this month:
    - The Wild Area in South Cove
    - The BPC Ball Field Terrace
    - Chambers Street Planters





## XII. BPC Ball Fields REMINDER: Spring & Summer Hours

- BPC Ball Field hours are 8AM-9PM daily
- BPC Ball Fields: Open Play Hours for [June](#) & [July](#)

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & STATUS UPDATES

### I. Drag Story Hour – Saturday, June 3

- BPCA’s Drag Story Hour couldn’t have been more fun and fabulous, providing an educational experience to kids while building up confidence to express ourselves comfortably! Thank you to all who attended!



### II. Strings-on-Hudon: ARKAI – Thursday, May 25

- As part of BPCA’s popular Strings-on-Hudson outdoor concert series, the award-winning **electroacoustic duo** ARKAI brought their genre-defying sting music to Belvedere Plaza in celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.



### III. “Master of Light” Screening featuring artist George Anthony Mason – Monday, May 22

- BPCA embraces opportunities to enliven the public realm with compelling art and to be fertile ground for creativity and reflection. In partnership with The Fortune Society & Represent Justice BPCA’s special impact screening of “[Master of Light](#),” helped tell the story of classical painter George Anthony Morton, who spent a decade in federal prison for dealing drugs.
- While incarcerated, Morton nurtured his craft and unique artistic ability. Now, back in his hometown of Kansas City, he’s on a journey to break cycles of intergenerational trauma and incarceration. The award-winning documentary is a powerful story of resilience and immense talent in the face of systemic oppression and the machine of mass incarceration.
- Thanks to all who attended this special event – and especially George Anthony Morton for his post-screening Q&A session.



#### IV. Go Fish! – Saturday, May 20

- Our annual *Go Fish! Celebration of life in the Hudson Estuary* event (moved indoors due to inclement weather) was packed with activities and festivities for all, including the musical talents of [BLOCO from da BLOCK](#). Thanks to all who celebrated with us!



#### V. Honoring Motherhood on Mother's Day – Sunday, May 14

- On Mother's Day, BPCA was thrilled to host author Mahogany L. Browne to read from her books *Woke Baby*, *Black Girl Magic: A Poem*, and *I Remember Death By Its Proximity to What I Love*, a response to the impact of mass incarceration on women and children.
- Joined by renowned artist James Yaya Hough in front of his public work "Justice Reflected", we enjoyed poetry from mothers, music, and coloring activities. Thank you to all who participated in such a heartwarming event!



#### VI. NYC Police Memorial Dedication – Wednesday, April 26

- BPCA was honored to join the New York City Police Department, as well as family members and friends of the fallen, to honor the memory of those officers who made the ultimate sacrifice at the expanded NYC Police Memorial.
- WATCH: [NYC Police Memorial Dedication Ceremony](#) (NYPD)



#### VII. Lost & Found Contact Information

- Allied Universal Command Center  
200 Rector Place | (212) 945-7233 | [bpcallied@bpca.ny.gov](mailto:bpcallied@bpca.ny.gov)



ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING:**I. BPC NEW LOOK: Greenway Tables & Chairs**

- BPCA has added a number of tables and chairs to the Hudson River Greenway just south of Second Place, adjacent to Little West Street.
- New addition is in advance of the temporary play and gathering space planned for the area on a pilot basis in the coming weeks.
- Read more about the Greenway's temporary play and gathering space [here](#).

**II. 2023 BPCA Board Meeting Schedule** *(subject to change)*

- BPCA Board meetings are conducted in-person at 2:00PM (unless otherwise noted) at 200 Liberty Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor on the following dates, and livestreamed here: [bpca.divacommunications.com/bpca-live](https://bpca.divacommunications.com/bpca-live)

<b>Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 28</b>	
August 16	September 27
October 25	December 13

- Watch BPCA Board meeting webcasts [here](#)
- More information on our [Board Meetings & Materials](#) page

**III. NYPD First Precinct Community Council**

- Next Meeting: Thursday, June 22, 6PM @ NYPD 1<sup>st</sup> Precinct (16 Ericsson Place)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Precinct Updates: [twitter.com/NYPD1Pct](https://twitter.com/NYPD1Pct)
- More info: [www.1stprecinctcc.org](http://www.1stprecinctcc.org)

**IV. NYPD Neighborhood Policing**

- [About Neighborhood Policing](#)
- Battery Park City's Neighborhood Coordination Officers are:

"Sector B" – BPC below West Thames Street

**P.O. Frank Jilling**

(212) 334-6462: O

(929) 213-2783: M

[Frank.Jilling@nypd.org](mailto:Frank.Jilling@nypd.org)

**P.O. Serge Jean**

(212) 334-6462: O

(929) 522-8409: M

[Serge.Jean@nypd.org](mailto:Serge.Jean@nypd.org)

"Sector C" – BPC above West Thames Street

**P.O. Thomas Nethaway**

(212) 334-6462: O

(929) 213-6313: M

[Thomas.Nethaway@nypd.org](mailto:Thomas.Nethaway@nypd.org)

**P.O. Eugene Uske**

(212) 334-6462: O

(917) 238-2330: M

[Eugene.Uske@nypd.org](mailto:Eugene.Uske@nypd.org)



**V. Upcoming Permitted Walks / Runs / Events**

Organization	Event Type	Event Date(s) & Approx. Time	Attendance	Street Closures?	Notes
200 & 300 North End Avenue	Sidewalk Shed Installation / LL11 Façade Inspection	June 2023 – TBD	N/A	N/A	
200 & 380 Rector Place	Sidewalk Shed Installation / LL11 Façade Inspection	June 2023 – TBD ( <i>permits pending</i> )	N/A	N/A	
Con Edison	Street Construction	June TBD	N/A	TBD	Replacement of underground transformers at intersection of 300 Vesey Street & NEA. Work entails use of heavy machinery.

**BPCA – Allied Universal Quality of Life Statistics**  
**May 2022 vs. May 2023**

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Graffiti	56	4
Homeless	2	13
Lost / Found Property	12	4
Park Rules	27	11
Vendor / Solicitor	0	0
Dogs	28	8

